

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN MAY 1934

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Atmospheric pressure.—Throughout the Alaskan region, from the Arctic Ocean to the Aleutian Islands and eastward to Juneau, atmospheric pressure was below the normal for May, with the greatest departure, -0.20 inch, at Point Barrow. Elsewhere practically normal barometric conditions prevailed, except for small excesses in pressure over the Nansei and Ogasawara Islands.

Early in the month near-winter depths of the Aleutian low were established, with minima of 28.7 to 28.9 inches recorded on the 3d over a considerable oceanic area between the Peninsula of Alaska and British Columbia.

The North Pacific anticyclone overlay central and eastern waters of the ocean in middle latitudes.

In the Far East disturbed pressure conditions were frequent, but no lows of maritime consequence appear to have developed in the tropics.

TABLE 1.—Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure at sea level, North Pacific Ocean, May 1934 at selected stations

Stations	Average pressure	Departure from normal	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inch</i>	<i>Inches</i>		<i>Inches</i>	
Point Barrow.....	29.89	-0.20	30.34	23	29.50	6
Dutch Harbor.....	29.81	-0.03	30.32	21	29.10	2
St. Paul.....	29.82	-0.02	30.44	21	29.06	10
Kodiak.....	29.78	-0.06	30.30	20	29.02	1
Juneau.....	29.92	-0.07	30.38	21	28.98	4
Tatoosh Island.....	30.02	$+0.01$	30.46	20	29.40	4
San Francisco.....	29.98	-0.01	30.22	8	29.75	21
Mazatlan.....	29.86	$+0.01$	29.94	10	29.74	31
Honolulu.....	30.05	-0.00	30.16	15	29.93	31
Midway Island.....	30.07	$+0.02$	30.32	6	29.84	23
Guam.....	29.89	$+0.01$	29.98	31	29.74	21
Manila.....	29.79	-0.06	29.88	6	29.70	23
Naha.....	29.88	$+0.06$	30.16	1	29.60	27
Chichishima.....	29.96	$+0.05$	30.18	7	29.74	26
Namuro.....	29.92	-----	30.22	30	29.26	14

NOTE.—Data based on 1 daily observation only, except those for Juneau, Tatoosh Island, San Francisco, and Honolulu which are based on 2 observations. Departures are computed from best available normals related to time of observation.

Cyclones and gales.—On the 1st to 3d cyclonic activity was widespread over northern and higher central waters, with the greatest depths noted on the 3d in 48° – 55° N., 130° – 145° W. The result was scattered gales, principally on the 2d and 3d, which were experienced along the northern routes between 160° E. and 130° W. These higher velocities were mostly of fresh to strong force (8–9), but in two instances rose to a whole gale (force 10), one near 44° N., 163° E., on the 2d; the other near 42° N., 152° W. on the 3d.

A second cyclone of some depth lay over the central Aleutians on the 9th–12th. On the 9th a southeast gale of force 10 occurred at Dutch Harbor, and gales of less force on the 9th were experienced by steamers as far south as the 40th parallel.

The third rather deep cyclone of the month occurred on the 14th over the northern part of the Japan Sea and on the 15th to the eastward of Hokoshu Island, and caused fresh to strong gales in waters west and east of northern Japan.

On the 11th a fresh northerly gale was experienced not far outside of San Francisco Harbor.

Subsequently to the 15th only three observations of winds of gale force are noted on our Pacific weather maps for May. One was of force 8, on the 21st, in 50° N., 150° W., and the other two were of force 8 and 10, on the 28th, apparently of norther type, in the Gulf of Tehuantepec.

Fog.—Fog was observed in middle and higher latitudes from coast to coast. The regions of greatest frequency lay off the California coast, with 8 days of occurrence observed; off the coast of Lower California, 7 days, and over a considerable region east of Japan and the Kuril Islands, with 3 to 5 or more days in each 5° square. Between 40° – 50° N., 140° – 160° W., 2 to 4 or more days with fog occurred in each included 5° square. Off the Mexican coast near Manzanillo stress was laid by observers upon the extraordinary appearance of fog on the 2d. to 4th.